

Message Text

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ACTION EA-07

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STATE FOR EA/TB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EIND, ETRD, ETRN, TH

SUBJECT: STATE RAILWAYS OF THAILAND URGENTLY REQUIRES SPARE PARTS
FROM CUMMINS ENGINE CO.

1. CHIEF OF PURCHASING DEPARTMENT, THAILAND'S ROYAL STATE RAILWAYS (RSR), MR. CHIRD BOONYARATAVEJ, CALLED AT EMBASSY APRIL 3, TO REGISTER CONSIDERABLE CONCERN ABOUT SERIOUS PROBLEM RSR IS FACING IN OBTAINING SPARE PARTS FOR DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES UNDERGOING REPAIR IN RSR SHOPS. HE STRESSED HIS CALL WAS NOT IN NATURE OF COMPLAINT, BUT RATHER TO EMPHASIZE URGENCY, AND TO EXPRESS HOPE THAT EMBASSY MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP EXPEDITE DELIVERY.

2. MR. CHIRD EXPLAINED THAT OF RSR'S 190 DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES, OVER FORTY OF THESE ARE NOW IN THE SHOP. TWENTY TWO OF THESE ARE GENERAL ELECTRIC LOCOMOTIVES, EQUIPPED WITH CUMMINS ENGINES. MR. CHIRD SHOWED EMBASSY CONFIDENTIAL RSR WEEKLY REPORT SHOWING THAT RSR NOW HAS OVER 8,000 RAILROAD CARS, THROUGHOUT THAILAND, FULLY LOADED WITH AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES (MAINLY RICE) WHICH CANNOT BE MOVED BECAUSE OF LOCOMOTIVES BEING LAID UP. (NOTE: THIS OBVIOUSLY POSES ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BUT ALSO UNDOUBTEDLY POLITICAL.)

3. CUMMINS' LOCAL AGENT, ON MARCH 25, TELEXED CUMMINS ENGINE CO., COLUMBUS, OHIO, ORDERING VARIOUS QUANTITIES OF

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NINE DIFFERENT SPARE PARTS (CAMSHAFT BUSHINGS, BEARINGS,

CONNECTING RODS, ETC.), REQUESTING AIR SHIPMENT. RSR HAS EVERY INDICATION THAT CUMMINS IS TREATING THIS ON AN URGENT BASIS, BUT IS NOT INFORMED OF DELIVERY SCHEDULE. CHIRD HAS PASSPORT AND VISA, AND IS READY TO FLY TO COLUMBUS HIMSELF IF THAT WOULD HELP, BUT OBVIOUSLY DOES NOT WANT MAKE UNNECESSARY TRIP.

4. REQUEST COMMERCE CONTACT CUMMINS AREA DIRECTOR, FAR EAST, MR. MAX REINHART, REFERRING TO RSR ORDER NO. 3320, L/C 170011-6648, AND EXPLAIN THAT ALTHOUGH RSR IS NOT COMPLAINING, IT IS VERY MUCH CONCERNED, AND WOULD APPRECIATE ITS ORDER BEING GIVEN HIGHEST PRIORITY. PLEASE ADVISE.

COMMENT: IN ADDITION TO ALLEVIATING SITUATION IN WHICH RSR CURRENTLY FINDS ITSELF, ANY ASSISTANCE GIVEN COULD HAVE LONG-RANGE BENEFITS FOR U.S. SUPPLIERS. AS DEPT. AWARE, U.S. COMPANIES (GE AND GM) LOST OUT IN LAST YEARS' RSR ORDER FOR 55 DIESEL LOCOMOTIVES, WITH SALE GOING TO FRENCH COMPANY. ONE ADVANTAGE AMERICAN COMPANIES WERE STRESSING WAS THEIR FAST DELIVERY TIME, AS COMPARED TO EUROPEAN. CHIRD, WHO WILL BE INVOLVED IN NEXT DIESEL LOCOMOTIVE TENDER, FOR ABOUT 50 LOCOMOTIVES, NOTED THAT BALANCE OF LOCOMOTIVES CURRENTLY LAID UP ARE GERMAN. HE SAID HE IS MAKING SAME EFFORTS TO SPEED UP DELIVERY OF THEIR SPARE PARTS, BUT DID NOT HAVE MUCH HOPE FOR EUROPEAN DELIVERY SCHEDULE.

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